

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An apparatus for treating a wire or a felt band in a papermaking plant, comprising:

a carrying device assigned to the wire or to the felt band; and

said carrying device having a multiplicity of supporting elements disposed at a spacing distance from one another;

wherein said supporting elements are tubular pieces with ends facing the wire or felt band and having wear resistant elements inserted into the ends facing the wire or felt band.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The apparatus according to claim 1, which comprises a vacuum source is connected to act with vacuum upon the wire or felt band circulating by said carrying device.

Claim 3 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supporting elements are configured, on a side thereof facing the wire or the felt band, with rests formed of wear-resistant material with respect to a movement of the wire or the felt band.

Claim 4 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supporting elements are adjustable with respect to said carrying device with regard to a distance thereof from the wire or the felt band.

Claim 5 (original). The apparatus according to claim 4, which comprises carrying strips adjustably disposed with respect to the wire or the felt band and carrying said supporting elements.

Claim 6 (original). The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein some of said supporting elements are rigidly fastened to said carrying device, and some of said supporting elements are adjustably supported with respect to the carrying device.

Claim 7 (original). The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said supporting elements are disposed next to one another on carrying strips oriented transversely to a direction of movement of the wire or of the felt band.

Claim 8 (original). The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein some of said supporting elements are adjustably mounted to said carrying devices.

Claim 9 (currently amended). ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~ An apparatus for treating a wire or a felt band in a papermaking plant, comprising:

a carrying device assigned to the wire or to the felt band, the wire or felt band ~~circulates~~ circulating by said carrying device during an operation of the apparatus,

and a rest that is wear-resistant with respect to a movement of the wire or felt band is being disposed on a side of said carrying device facing the wire or felt band,

said carrying device having a multiplicity of supporting elements disposed at a spacing distance from one another, and said rest having margins facing said supporting elements transversely to the direction of movement of the wire or of the felt band formed with portions running at an acute angle to the direction of movement of the wire or the felt band.

Claim 10 (original). The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said margins of said rest which run transversely to the direction of movement of the wire or felt band have a wavy configuration.

Claim 11 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the wire or felt band circulates by said carrying device during an operation of the apparatus, and said carrying device is adjustably mounted transversely to a direction of movement of the wire or of the felt band, and wherein a drive device is connected to said carrying device for oscillating said carrying device transversely to the direction of movement of the wire or the felt band.

Claim 12 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrying device forms part of a suction box.

Claim 13 (original). The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said suction box is mounted for oscillation transversely to a direction of movement of the wire or felt

band, and a drive device is connected to said suction box for oscillating said suction box.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended). The apparatus according to ~~claim 14, wherein~~ claim 1, wherein said elements are formed of a material that is wear-resistant with respect to a movement of the wire or felt band.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The apparatus according to ~~claim 14, wherein~~ claim 1, wherein top sides of said elements have edges facing the wire or felt band, and the edges are chamfered or rounded design, and said elements are formed, on opposite sides, with extensions for insertion into said tubular pieces.

Claim 17 (original). The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said edges are beveled.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The apparatus according to ~~claim 14, wherein~~ claim 1, wherein said elements are formed with a convexely curved surface with respect to the wire or felt band.

Claim 19 (new). An apparatus for treating a wire or a felt band in a papermaking plant, comprising:

a carrying device disposed to support the wire or the felt band and having a multiplicity of supporting elements formed with ceramic material disposed to support the wire or the felt band and configured to remove a liquid from an underside of the wire or felt band;

said supporting elements being disposed at a spacing distance from one another in a direction of movement and transversely to the direction of movement of the wire or the felt band and forming intermediate spaces therebetween; and

a vacuum source connected to create a vacuum at said carrying device, with said intermediate spaces between said supporting elements forming substantially vertical flow channels for fluids suctioned through the wire or the felt band.